

aspiration aperture.

58. The surgical instrument of Claim 51 wherein the first and second electrodes extend in the same plane.

59. 50. The surgical instrument of Claim 51 wherein each of the first and second electrodes is cylindrical in shape.--

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment should be considered before examination of this continuation application.

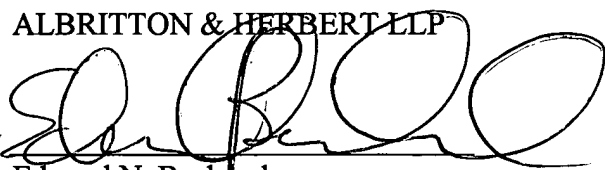
Applicants' changes to the specification are supported by the drawings and other portions of the specification. For example, the inclusion of electrodes 1822 and 1824 having the shape of a partial loop or prong is supported by the paragraph beginning on Page 14, line 23 of the specification, which relates to FIGS. 10A-10B. Electrodes 1822 and 1824 in FIGS. 18A-18C are drawn similar to electrodes 1022 shown in FIGS. 10A-10B.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the title and claims showing the changes made thereto by this Preliminary Amendment. That attached page is captioned "Version with Markings to Show Changes."

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES**In the Title:**

The title has been amended as follows:

Surgical Instrument [for Ablation and Aspiration]
Having Distal Face with First and Second Electrodes

In the Specification:

Paragraph beginning on Page 20, line 31 and continuing to Page 21, line 8 has been amended as follows:

—FIGS. 18A-C illustrate a further alternative embodiment of the electrosurgical aspiration instrument 1810 of the present invention in which the active and return electrodes 1822, 1824 lie in the same plane at the distal end 1812 of elongate probe member or shaft 1834. The active and return electrodes are substantially configured similarly such that the two conductors 1816 and 1826 are electrically coupled through shaft 1827 to the distal end 1812. Electrodes 1822 and [1834] 1824, which are shown as having the shape of a partial loop or prong, are electrically isolated by insulator 1828. Delivery of energy is equal to both electrodes such that an equal, bipolar effect occurs at the surgical site. Both electrodes extend from one side of aspiration aperture 1825 in shaft 1834 to a point across the aperture and return to the generator. One electrode serves as an active electrode and one electrode serves as a return electrode. It will be appreciated that either electrode may be an active or a return since the polarity of the power generator may be reversed. Because both electrodes are configured across the aspiration aperture 1825, clogging and blockage of the aperture is prevented or reduced.--

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